

II.—THE MATING OF ELEPHANTS.

While out shooting wild elephants in 1919 on the west of Payagale, about 20 miles north-west of Pegu, Burma, I chanced to witness a unique sight, and was sorry to be without a camera at the time. It was the mating of a wild bull-elephant and cow-elephant. I was searching for a tusker that morning and came upon a herd of wild elephants which were scattered grazing. Entering stealthily in their midst followed by two Burman guides, I saw from a hill streamlet, after an hour's stalking, two wild elephants—a bull tusker and a cow—far removed from the herd just at the foot of a hillock. The bull had its trunk round the left hind leg of the cow-elephant, at the same time pressing his right tusk on her left rump, using this as a lever to inflict pain so that the cow would be obliged to submit to his wishes. No resistance was shown, apparently because the bull had a thorough hold on her.

From my place of vantage, say within 50 feet away, I saw the bull forcing the cow, held in the above manner, to walk up the rising ground for about the space of 20 or 30 yards; they turned and the bull loosening his hold, rose on the cow in the act of service. They gradually descended in this manner to the foot of the hill. On reaching level ground the bull got off, laid hold of the cow again as described above and made her repeat the ascent. This movement was carried out three or four times in succession till the service apparently came to an end.

The wild bull then released the cow which ran away to join the herd once more. The bull stood for sometime before he moved off.

The scene was so impressive and unique that I was loath to shoot the tusker, and allowed him to go his way. I don't think such a sight has been witnessed by many shikaries, and I therefore record this note.

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PEGU.

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III.—BEHAVIOUR OF GAUR OR INDIAN BISON (*BIBOS GAURUS*).

Major Rossel in his article on page 325 of your September 1938 issue, comments on the apparent inability of bison to recognize men moving in the open at over 50 yards; I have had many experiences of the same kind and at much shorter ranges, when trying to obtain photos. Twice recently I have stalked up to solitary bull bison in fairly open country. In one case I managed to conceal myself behind a bush while I prepared my camera for action. When all was ready I found that the bison was walking